UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OSCAR L. CHAPMAN, SECRETARY

DEFENSE MINERALS ADMINISTRATION

Report by Examination Team
Region II

690
DMI-188, Lew C. Jones, Big Horn Mine

Butte County, Idaho

Thor H. Kiilsgaard, Geologist
U. S. Geological Survey

James J. Quinlan, Geologist
U. S. Geological Survey

Elwin A. Magill, Mining Engineer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

May 23, 1951

DMA EXAMINATION REPORT

DMA Docket-188

Thor H. Kiilsgaard USGS
James J. Quinlan USGS
Elwin A. Magill USBM

Big Horn Mine
Butte County, Idaho
May 23, 1951

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the application of Mr. Lew C. Jones, Shelly, Idaho, for a production loan on the Big Horn mine, Butte County, Idaho, be denied. It is further recommended that consideration of this property for an exploration loan be denied.

APPLICANT

The applicant, Lew C. Jones, Shelly, Idaho, desires a production loan on the Big Horn mine, Butte County, Idaho. The property consists of 7 unpatented claims owned by the applicant.

LOCATION

The Big Horn mine is in the southern part of the Lemhi Range at an altitude of about 9500 feet near the crest of the range. This property is about 22 miles northeast of Howe, Idaho. Steep terrain along with snow makes the property accessible only during the summer months.

HISTORY AND PAST PRODUCTION

The Big Horn mine was located in 1906 by the locators of the productive Wilbert mine. The Wilbert mine is about 8 miles southwest of the Big Horn and at least 3000 feet lower in altitude. In 1912 the property, then known as the Metta mine, is reported to have shipped 5 railroad cars of handsorted ore to a Salt Lake City smelter. Additional development work was carried out in 1922-23, but there is no record of shipments during that period.

In 1940 Mr. Lew C. Jones relocated the unpatented claims and leased the property to Carl H. Scoby of Shelly, Idaho. In 1943 Scoby received an RFC loan of $3,000, which is unpaid at the present time. In 1948 a road was built to the mine at a reported cost of $4,500. It is reported that 22.5 tons of material sorted and shipped from the dumps in 1948 contained 15.1 percent lead, 2.8 percent zinc, and 3.4 oz. silver per ton. The net return from these shipments is reported at $709.

Scoby's lease was terminated in 1950, and the property reverted to the control of Mr. Jones.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

The applicant proposes a production loan of $10,000 to be expended as follows:

Working capital, labor, fuel, and transportation.....$3,400

To purchase air compressor, drills, hoist, hose, cables, jack hammers, miscellaneous equipment, truck, ore crusher, and ore concentrator.....$6,600

As ore reserves, to substantiate his request for a production loan, the applicant claimed to have 3000 tons of measured ore assaying 10 percent lead, and an unknown amount of silver. He also claimed to have approximately 3000 tons of low grade ore on the dump, and a 5-foot vein in the shaft that assays 80 percent lead and 16 ounces of silver per ton.

An appraisal by the DMA Examination Team failed to confirm the applicant's estimate of the ore reserves.

After being informed of DMA's policy on exploration loans, the applicant stated a desire to participate in a $10,000 matching-fund exploration loan. With this money the applicant proposed to purchase the aforementioned equipment, excluding the milling equipment, and to timber the 100-foot North shaft. He also proposes continued sinking of the North shaft for at least 50 feet, and to crosscut the vein which lies a short distance north of the shaft.

TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY

Geological Setting of the Property

Development workings of the Big Horn mine explore several separate veins. Two of these veins have been drifted on by the lower adit. (see accompanying geologic map). The vein followed inward from the portal has produced about 5 tons of ore (estimate), which was extracted from a small undercut stope 25 feet in from the portal.

The North shaft, the principal working place in 1950, intersects an iron-stained structure 24 feet from the collar. Eight feet from the bottom of the shaft, a short, crooked raise leads to an intermediate level which explores a strong 4-foot vein striking N. 85° E., and dipping 70° N%. This vein has been stoped, and has evidently been the principal producer of the property. At the time of the visit by the examination team the stope workings were badly caved and too hazardous to be mapped.

The wall rock enclosing the veins is gray, massive limestone, thought to be the Brazier formation of Mississippian age. The veins are tight fractures containing brecciated and cemented fragments of limestone, quartz, and oxidized lead-silver ores. Residual fragments of galena are found within the larger oxidized masses. Ore is frozen to the vein walls, and there is little gouge on the fracture surfaces.

It is believed that future exploration work should be directed toward driving a 25-foot crosscut from the bottom of the North shaft to the vein north of the shaft. Such a crosscut would reach the vein much sooner and with far less expense than by continued sinking of the North shaft. This crosscut would have about 20 feet of backs on the east side under the old stope, but the structure could be drifted on to the west and more backs developed.

Mine Workings

The property is developed by 4 inclined shafts, all ranging from 80 to 100 feet in depth. Additional development is by an adit which explores two of the veins. A level is reported to extend from the base of the North shaft to the three shafts to the east. Some stoping extends above this level but the workings are too hazardous to permit entry.

Recent work has consisted of continued sinking of the North shaft in hopes of contacting the vein that overlies the shaft and dips almost parallel to it.

Ore Reserves

There is no ore blocked out in the mine. Moreover, there is no ore in sight, barring ore in the back of the badly caved stope which would now be impossible to mine.

There is an estimated 500 tons of dump, two grab samples of which assayed 2.1 ounces in silver, 7.1 percent lead, and .85 percent zinc.

Mining Method

Past production was from a small stulled stope and from undercutting at the adit level. Little ore has been produced by these methods.

Milling Method

Crude ore has been shipped to the U.S. Smelting and Refining Company plant at Midvale, Utah. Prior to the visit by the examination team, the applicant contemplated construction of a mill to treat the ore. However, the examination team advised against construction of a mill on the grounds that there is not enough developed ore and that the water supply is deficient.

EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

The applicant has only the common hand tools necessary for prospecting. Before initiating any active mining work a complete complement of mining equipment must be obtained.

LABOR

The applicant does not contemplate a need for additional labor other than members of his immediate family for the small scale operation as proposed. If the operation is expanded, housing facilities must be provided.

POWER

All power must be generated by gas or Diesel units.

TRANSPORTATION

In 1948 shipments to Salt Lake City were:

Truck rate (in 1948) to railhead at Arco by Lindburg truck line, Mackay, Idaho, $5 / per ton.
From Arco to Salt Lake City the freight rate varies with the grade of ore but approximates $4 per ton.

The road to the mine is accessible to truck transportation from May 1 until November 1 only, or throughout the summer months of the year.

COMPETENCE OF APPLICANT

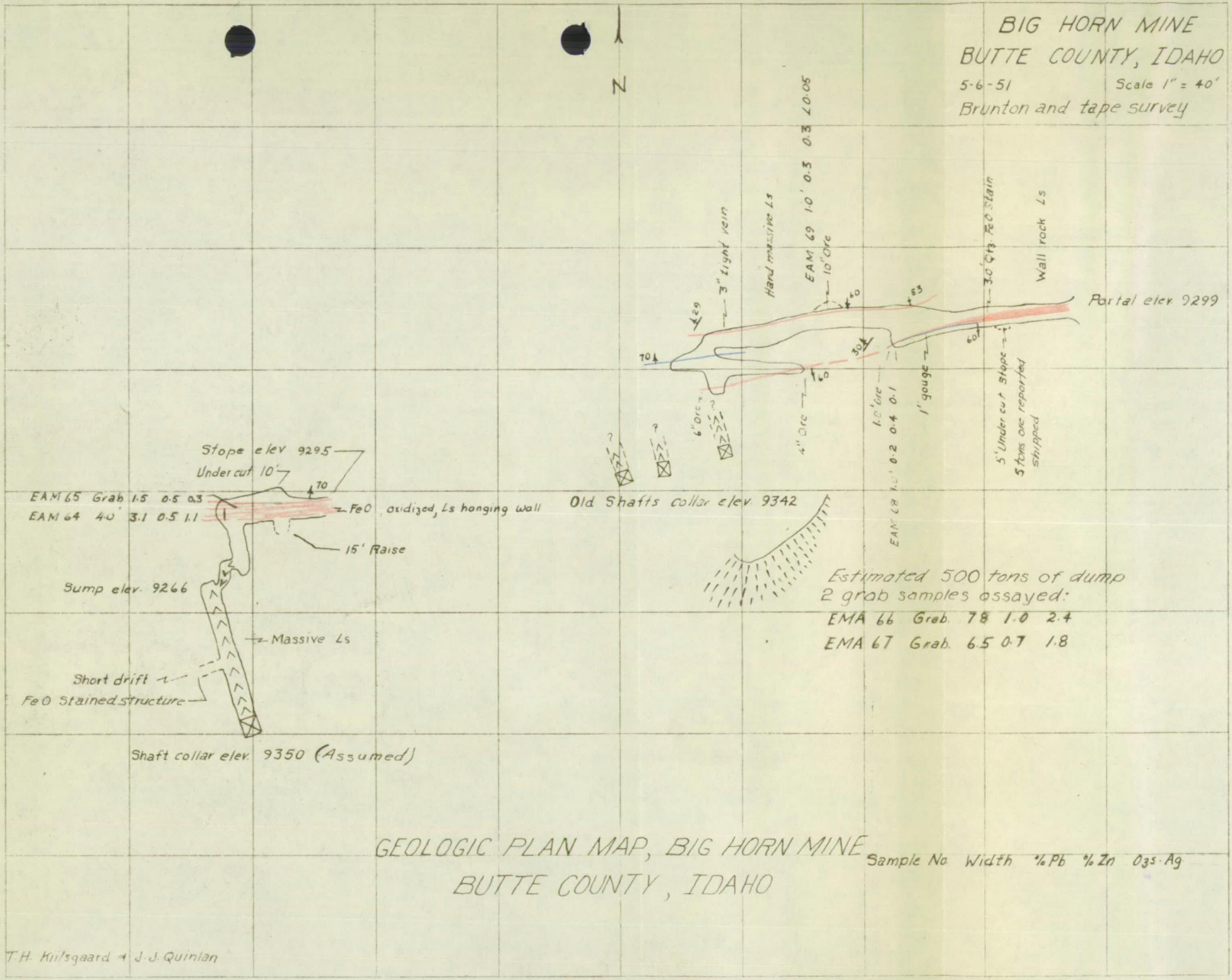
Mr. Jones has a limited amount of mining experience. Although he might be capable of conducting a small prospecting operation, it is doubtful if he could plan or manage a successful exploration operation.

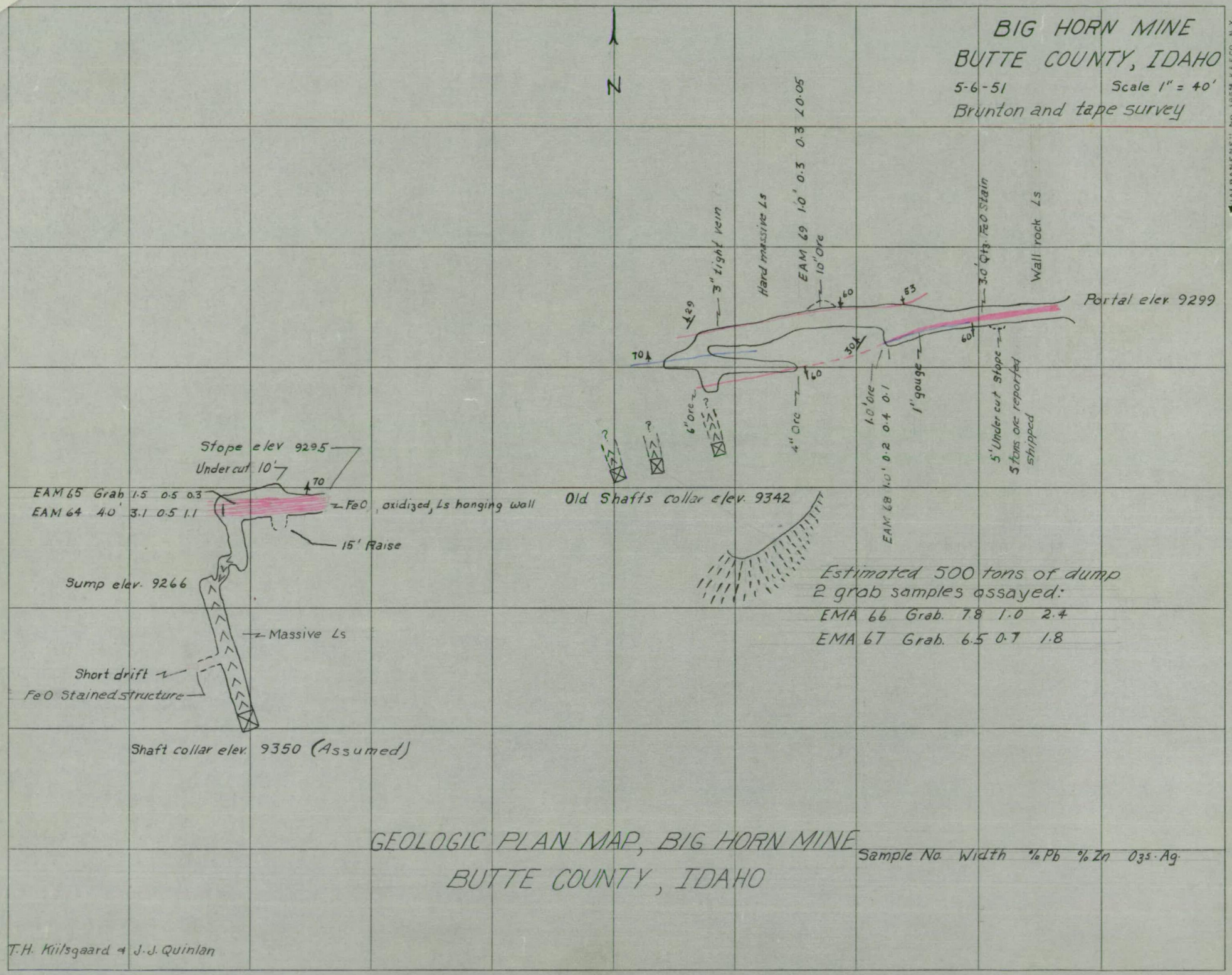
DISCUSSION OF PROPOSAL

There is an insufficient tonnage of ore on the dump to warrant a production loan for the construction of any type of a mill. Furthermore, the available water supply is inadequate for a milling operation.

Mr. Jones has stated that he is prepared to enter into an exploration contract with the DMA, the total sum of which is to be $10,000. However, it is recommended that an exploration loan to the applicant be denied for the following reasons:

1. The low assays on the structure are discouraging. A weighted average is 2.2 percent Pb, 0.45 percent Zn, and 0.8 ounces Ag.
2. The inaccessible location of the mine will permit operation only during the summer months.
3. The limited mining experience of the applicant and his lack of familiarity with mining tools and methods suggest that he would be incapable of conducting a successful exploration program.


BIG HORN MINE
BUTTE COUNTY, IDAHO
5-6-51
Scale 1" = 40'
Brunton and tape survey
N
Portal elev 9299
Wall rock Ls
3.0' Qtz. FeO Stain
EAM 69 1.0' 0.3 0.3 <0.05
10" Ore
3" Light vein
Hard massive Ls
1' gouge
5' Undercut stope
5 tons ore reported shipped
4" Ore
6" Ore
Old Shafts collar elev. 9342
Estimated 500 tons of dump
2 grab samples assayed:
EMA 66 Grab 7.8 1.0 2.4
EMA 67 Grab 6.5 0.7 1.8
Stope elev 9295
Undercut 10'
EAM 65 Grab 1.5 0.5 0.3
EAM 64 4.0' 3.1 0.5 1.1
FeO, oxidized, Ls hanging wall
15' Raise
Sump elev. 9266
Massive Ls
Short drift
FeO Stained structure
Shaft collar elev. 9350 (Assumed)
Sample No. Width % Pb % Zn Ozs. Ag
GEOLOGIC PLAN MAP, BIG HORN MINE
BUTTE COUNTY, IDAHO
T.H. Kiilsgaard + J.J. Quinlan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6" Ore
4" Ore
1.0' ore
1" gouge
5' Undercut stope
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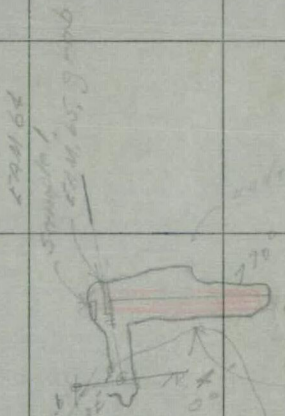
GEOLOGIC PLAN MAP, BIG HORN MINE
BUTTE COUNTY, IDAHO
T.H. Kiilsgaard & J.J. Quinlan

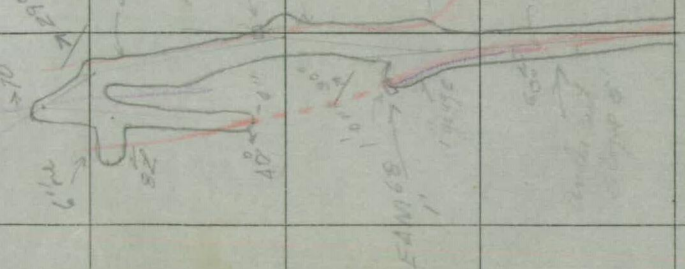
Big Horn mine
May 6, 1951
Scale 1" = 40'



Center of shaft

Traverse from shaft to dump

α N70°E
185' at -3° to X
X - N70°W - 0°53' - shaft corner
90' top X - N60°W - 0°46' - center of shaft
65' X - N38°W - 0°34' - crown of shaft
60'
X - N56°E 16°-151' - Point on dump
S75°W - 0°-36' to portal



"ALBANENE" NO. 195M K&E CO., N.Y. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

DMA Field Team Report on the Big Horn mine
DMA Docket 188

by

Thor H. Kiilsgaard & James J. Quinlan, USGS
and
Elwin A. Magill , USBM

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the application of Mr. Lew C. Jones, Shelly, Idaho, for a production loan on the Big Horn mine, Butte County, Idaho, be denied. It is ~~also~~ further recommended that consideration of this property for an exploration loan be denied.

APPLICANT

The applicant ~~is~~ Lew C. Jones, Shelly, Idaho, ~~who~~ desires a production loan on the Big Horn mine, Butte County, Idaho. The property consists of 7 unpatented claims owned by the applicant.

LOCATION

The Big Horn mine is in the southern part of the Lemhi Range at an altitude of about 9500 feet, ~~or~~ near the crest of the range. The property is about 22 miles northeast of Howe, Idaho. ~~The~~ Steep terrain, along with snow, makes the property accessible only during the summer months.

HISTORY AND PAST PRODUCTION

The Big Horn mine was located in 1906 by the ~~same people who~~ locators of located the productive Willbert mine, ~~which~~ the Willbert mine, is about 8 miles southwest of the Big Horn and at least 3000 feet lower in ~~elevation~~ elevation. In 1912 the property ~~was~~ then known as the Metta mine, ~~and~~ is reported to have shipped 5 railroad cars of handsorted ore to a Salt Lake City smelter, ~~at that time~~. ~~The property was also briefly operated in 1922-23.~~ Additional development work was done in 1922-23 but there is no record of shipments during that period.

In 1940 Mr. Lew C. Jones relocated the unpatented claims and leased ~~it~~ the mine to Carl H. Scoby of Shelly, Idaho.

In 1943 Scoby received an RFC loan of $3,000, ~~that~~ which is unpaid at the present time. In 1948 ~~Scoby~~ was built a road to the mine, reportedly at a cost of $4,500, ~~and is~~ also reported to have shipped 22½ tons of ore from the dump that ~~assayed 304 ounces~~ silver, 15.1 percent lead, and 2.8 percent zinc. ~~The shippment is reported to have netted $709.~~

In 1950 Scoby's lease was terminated and the property reverted to the control of Mr. Jones.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

The applicant ~~desires~~ proposes a production loan of $10,000, ~~which he~~ proposes to be expended as follows:

Working capital, labor, fuel, and transportation -----	$3,400
To purchase air compressor, drills, hoist, hose, cables, jack hammers, miscellaneous equipment, truck, ore crusher, and ore concentrator ----------	$6,600

As ore reserves, to substantiate his request for a production loan, the applicant claimed to have 3000 tons of measured ore ~~in sight~~ which would assay 10 percent lead, and an unknown amount of silver. He also claimed to have approximately 3000 tons of low grade ore on the dump, and a 50-foot vein in the shaft that assays 80 percent lead and 16 ounces of silver per ton.

An ~~examination~~ appraisal by the DMA Examination Team failed to confirm the applicant's estimate of the ore reserves.

After being informed of DMA's policy on exploration loans, the applicant stated a desire to participate in a $12,000 matching-fund exploration loan, ~~the total sum of which would be $10,000.~~ With this money the applicant proposed to purchase the aforementioned equipment, excluding the milling equipment, and to timber the 100-foot North shaft. He also proposes continued sinking of the North shaft for at least 50 feet, and to crosscut the vein which lies a short distance north of the shaft.

It is reported that 22½ tons of material mined and shipped from the workings in 1946 contained 15¼ percent lead, 2.8 percent zinc, and 3.9 oz. silver per ton. The net return from these shipments is reported at $709.

TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY

Geological Setting of the Property

Development workings of the Big Horn mine explore several separate veins. Two of these veins have been drifted on by the lower adit. (see accompanying geologic map). The vein followed inward from the portal has produced about 5 tons of ore (estimate), which was extracted from a small undercut stope 25 feet in from the portal.

The North shaft, the principal working place ~~at the present time~~ in 1950, intersects an iron-stained structure 24 feet from the collar. Eight feet from the bottom of the shaft, a short, crooked raise leads to an intermediate level which explores a strong 4-foot vein striking N. 85° E., and dipping 70° NW. This vein has been stoped, and has evidently been the principal producer of the property. At the time of the visit by the examination team the stope workings were badly caved and too hazardous ~~for~~ to be mapped.

The wall rock enclosing the veins is gray, massive limestone, thought to be the Brazier formation of Mississippian age. The veins are tight fractures containing cemented, brecciated fragments of limestone, quartz, and oxidized lead-silver ores. Residual fragments of galena are found within the larger oxidized masses. Ore is frozen to the vein walls, and there is little gouge on the fracture surfaces.

It is believed that future exploration work should be directed toward driving a 25-foot crosscut from the bottom of the North shaft to the vein north of the shaft. Such a crosscut would reach the vein much sooner and with far less expense than would continued sinking of the North shaft. This crosscut would have about 20 feet of backs on the east side under the old stope, but the structure could be drifted on to the west and more backs developed.

Mine Workings

The property is developed by 4 inclined shafts, all ranging from 80 to 100 feet in depth. Additional development is by an adit which explores two of the veins. A level is reported to extend from the base of the North shaft to the three shafts to the east. Some stoping extends above this level but the workings are too hazardous to permit entry.

Recent work has consisted of continued sinking of the North shaft in hopes of contacting the vein ~~that~~ overlies the shaft and dips almost parallel to it.

Ore Reserves

There is no ore blocked out in the mine. Moreover, there is no ore in sight in the mine, barring ore in the back of the badly caved stope which would now be impossible to mine.

There is an estimated 500 tons of dump, two grab samples of which assayed 2.1 ounces in silver, 7.1 percent lead, and .85 percent zinc.

Mining Method

Past ~~mining~~ production was from a small stulled stope and from undercutting at the adit level. ~~Very~~ Little ore has been produced by these methods.

Milling Method

Ore has been shipped crude to the U. S. Smelting and Refining Company plant at Midvale, Utah. Prior to the visit by the ~~examination team~~, the applicant contemplated construction of a mill to treat the ore. However, the examination team advised against construction of a mill on the grounds ~~that there was insufficient water for milling, and~~ that there ~~was~~ is not enough developed ore ~~developed to warrant~~ and that the water supply is deficient.

EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

The applicant has ~~in his possession~~ only the common hand tools necessary for prospecting. Before initiating any active mining work ~~the applicant will have to obtain~~ a complete (complement of) mining equipment, must be obtained.

LABOR

The applicant does not contemplate need for (additional) labor (other than members of his immediate family) for ~~a~~ the small scale operation ~~such as~~ he (as) proposes (of). ~~He uses members of his family as labor.~~ If (the operation is expanded) ~~larger scale operations are~~ undertaken, housing facilities ~~will~~ must be ~~needed~~ provided.

POWER

All power must be generated by gas or Diesel units.

TRANSPORTATION

In 1948, shipments to Salt Lake City were:

Trucked (rate (in 1948)) to railhead at Arco by Lindburg truck line, Mackay, Idaho $5 / ton.

From Arco to Salt Lake City the freight rate varies with the grade of ore but approximates $4 per ton.

The road to the mine is accessible to truck transportation from May 1 until Nov 1 (only), or throughout the summer months of the year. It is impassable due to snow in the winter months.

COMPETENCE OF APPLICANT

Mr Jones has a ~~very~~ limited amount of mining experience. (However) He ~~might~~ be capable of conducting a (small) prospecting ~~type of~~ operation, ~~but~~ it is doubtful if he could ~~conduct~~ (plan or manage) a successful exploration operation.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSAL

There is an insufficient tonnage of ore on the dump to warrant a production loan for the construction of any type of a mill. Furthermore, ~~Morewver, ther~~ is ~~an~~ inadequate water supply ~~for~~ a milling operation.

Mr. Jones has stated that he is prepa red to enter into an exploration contract with the DMA, the total sum of which is to be $10,000. However, it is recommended that an exploration loan to the applicant be denied for the following reasons:

1. The low assays on the structure are discouraging. A weighted average is 2.2 percent Pb, 0.45 percent Zn, and 0.8 ounces Ag.

2. The inaccessible location of the mine will permit operation only during the summer months.

3. The limited mining experience of the applicant and his lack of familiarity with mining tools and methods suggest that he would be incapable of conducting a successful exploration program.

May 4, 1951

Mr. Lew C. Jones
Box 271,
Shelley, Idaho

Dear Mr. Jones:

We plan on visiting your property on Monday, May 7. We will stop by the Howe Garage at 8:00 A M Monday morning should you care to accompany us.

Yours truly,

Elwin A Magill
Mining Engineer

Shelley - Ida.
Apri. 25 - 1951.

Mr Edwin Mogill,
U.S. Bureau of Mines,
c/o Hiawatha Hotel,
Hailey - Idaho.

Dear Sir:

Your letter, of Apri. 21st Concerning the trip to examine the Big Horn Mine, is at hand.

It will likely save you some time & mileage if we could meet at Howe. If this meets with your approval. We will be glad to meet your group at the Howe Garage, Mon. Apri. 30th at 9. a.m., and proceed from there.

The Big Horn is located about 22 miles northeast of Howe.

We have not as yet, made a trip out there this spring. But from all indications, we will be able to travel the road by car all the way to the mine.

Yours Truly, Lew Jones

Hailey, Idaho
April 21, 1951

Mr. Lew C. Jones
Box 271,
Shelley, Idaho

Dear Mr. Jones:

The DMA Field Team now in the Hailey area has been requested to make an examination of the Big Horn Mine in connection with your request for a government loan.

If the property is accessible and it fits into your plans, the field team would like to visit the mine on Monday, April 30.

If this date is agreeable with you, would you kindly write us giving instructions as to the exact location of the mine with time and place of our meeting.

Yours truly,

Elwin A. Magill
U. S. Bureau of Mines
c/o Hiawatha Hotel
Hailey, Idaho

cc: Glenn C. Reed
A. E. Weissenborn

Big Horn

Hailey, Idaho
April 21, 1951

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Box 271,
Shelley, Idaho

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U. S. Bureau of Mines
c/o Hiawatha Hotel
Hailey, Idaho

cc: Glenn C. Reed
A. E. Weissenborn

So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane 8, Washington

April 17, 1951

Mr. Thor Kiilsgaard
Hiawatha Hotel
Hailey, Idaho

Dear Thor:

The application of Lew C. Jones, Big Horn Mine, Blaine County, Idaho, Docket DMA-680, has been received from the Coordinating Committee, and I am forwarding it to you so that you may examine the property while you are in the Hailey area.

Sincerely yours,

A. E. Weissenborn
Executive Officer, DMA
Field Team, Region II

Enclosure

cc: L. F. Strobel
Tom Lyon
Glenn Reed

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane 8, Washington

April 17, 1951

Mr. Thor Kiilsgaard
Hiawatha Hotel
Hailey, Idaho

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Executive Officer, DMA
Field Team, Region II

Enclosure

cc: L. F. Strobel
Tom Lyon
Glenn Reed

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

April 4, 1951

Memorandum

To: Executive Officer Field Team, Region II
Through: Coordinating Committee

From: Chairman of the Coordinating Committee

Subject: Application of
Lew C. Jones
Big Horn Mine
Blaine County, Idaho

Re: Docket DMA-680

Commodity: Lead, zinc

The subject docket has been reviewed by the Lead-Zinc Branch, Defense Minerals Administration.

The applicant requests a loan of $10,000 to purchase equipment and provide working capital for mining lead and zinc ore from the Big Horn Mine. It is estimated that the property has 3,000 tons of 10% lead ore as measured reserves plus 3,000 tons of low grade ore on the dump. Zinc ore is mentioned but is not included in the reserves, therefore, it is assumed that this ore must be determined by exploration.

The applicant states that the ore is too low grade to ship without first concentrating it at the mine, therefore, in order to make a marketable product it is necessary to install milling facilities.

The Lead-Zinc Branch recommends that the application be referred to the field to determine the size, grade and type (sulfide or oxidized) of lead-zinc reserves. It is possible that this project should be first included in the exploration program.

Approved:
DMA Coordinating Committee

Lowell B. Moon
L. B. Moon

T. P. Thayer
for Olaf N. Rove

Chairman Tom Lyon
Coordinating Committee

April 4, 1951

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Through: Coordinating Committee

From: Chairman of the Coordinating Committee

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DMA Coordinating Committee

Lowell B. Moon

L. B. Moon

Olaf N. Rove

Olaf N. Rove

Tom Lyon

Chairman
Coordinating Committee

ALBrekaw:emp G 4/4/51

Copies to: 2- A. E. Weissenborn
Region II
Chief, Lead Zinc. Br.
E. T. McKnight 4204 GSA

L. B. Moon
R. H. Mote
L. F. Strobel
C. O. Mittendorf
Files

April 4, 1951

Re: Docket DMA-680

Mr. Lew C. Jones
Box 271
Shelley, Idaho

Dear Mr. Jones:

Your application (Docket DMA-680) for a Government loan under the provisions of the Defense Production Act of 1950 has been reviewed by the Lead-Zinc Branch of the Defense Minerals Administration. Before final decision can be taken on your request it will be necessary to obtain additional information on your property. Your application, therefore has been referred to Mr. A. E. Weissenborn, Executive Officer of Field Team, Region II, S. 157 Howard Street, Spokane 8, Washington, with the request that the needed information be supplied to us.

Very truly yours,

Tom Lyon, Director
Supply Division

ALBrokaw:emp G 4/4/51
Copies to: 2- A. E. Weissenborn
Region II
Chief, Lead-Zinc Br.
E. T. McKnight 4204 GSA
L. B. Moon
R. H. Mote
L. F. Strobel
C. O. Mittendorf
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